

The Federal Communications Commission

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

I am writing to request that you reject the flat fee proposal that would change how contributions are made to the Universal Service Fund.

Assigning the same fee to everyone who has telephone service, rather than to those who use long-distance the most, you in effect force people who use long-distance service the least to subsidize big service users. This is simply unfair.

Why should low-volume, primarily residential customers (including the elderly, students, and those with lower incomes) pay the same fee as high-volume residential or business customers?

For several years now I have paid the minimum possible for wireless telephone service for myself and my elderly parents. This costs about \$100 annually for 250 minutes for each telephone. I do not believe either of us has ever used all our minutes in a year. We carry the phones simply for safety, security and convenience. The most we have ever used these phones was after a hurricane that interrupted our regular phone service.

It troubles me to think that the same government that tells me I am at risk from a terrorist threat should increase my cost to provide a simple safety measure for myself and my elderly parents, so that people who are constantly on their phones can pay less than their proportionate share.

I urge you to reject the proposal to move the USF collection system to a flat-fee.

Keep the USF Fair!

Sincerely,

Susan Gholston
144 Carriage Point Lane
Glen Allen, Virginia 23059-7466